September 26, 1958

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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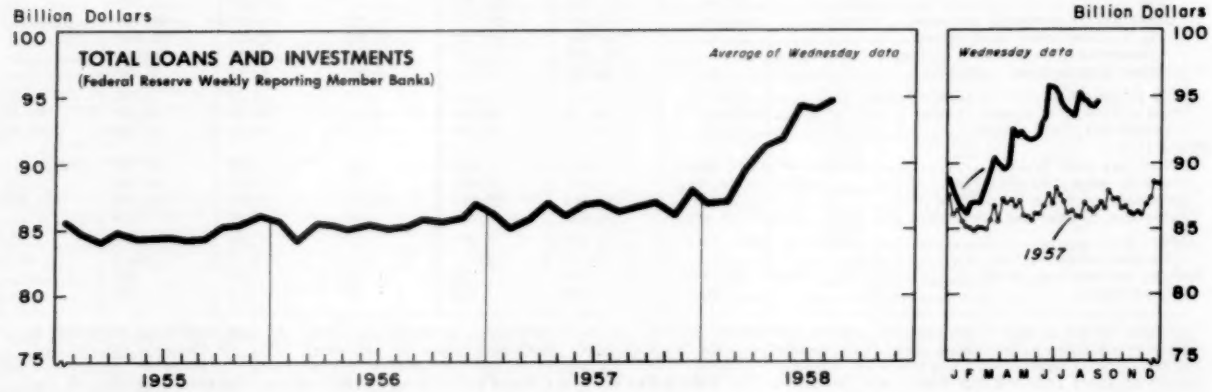
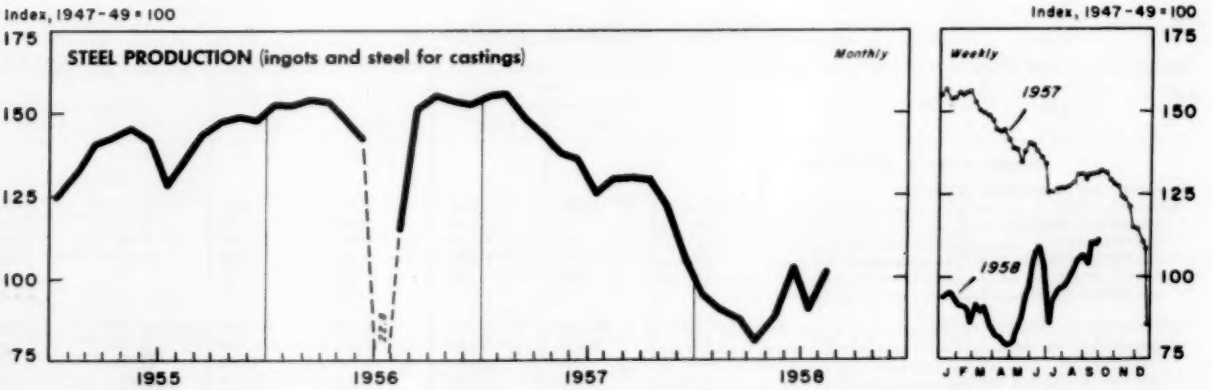
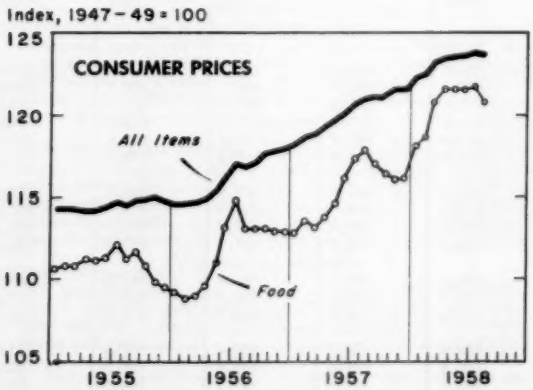
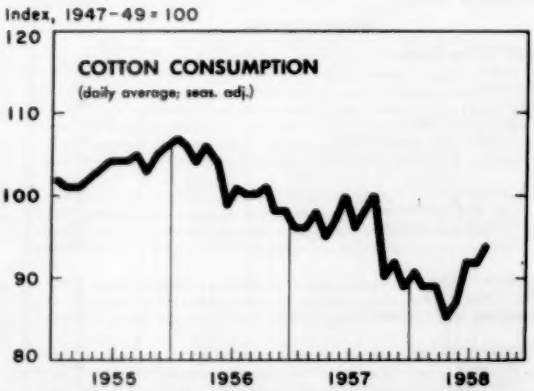
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1957		1958			
	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Aug. 30	Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*118.0	.....	118.8	119.0	119.0
Farm products.....do....	.....	*91.0	.....	92.6	93.3	93.0
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*106.5	.....	110.2	110.8	111.1
All other.....do....	.....	*126.0	.....	126.1	126.1	126.0
22 commodities 2/.....do....	87.9	87.4	86.2	86.2	86.2	86.1
Department store sales.....do....	140	135	149	123	145	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,245	1,254	**2,250	**2,202	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,149	1,162	2,055	2,010	.....	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	237	287	246	191	256	262
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,256	31,184	31,249	31,379	31,433	31,393
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	25,408	25,719	26,417	26,638	26,661	26,644
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,876	19,108	18,526	18,446	18,479	18,572
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	575	624	591	589	655	687
Reporting member banks (of F.R.System) in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	55,671	55,094	55,844	55,509	56,719	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	23,745	23,763	28,406	28,423	28,563	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,581	87,052	94,327	94,298	94,703	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	24,762	24,747	32,902	32,674	32,664	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	32,279	32,603	29,901	29,885	30,084	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,708	8,718	9,067	9,074	9,100	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.42	4.44	4.25	4.33	4.38	4.41
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	44.26	44.69	47.91	48.18	48.31	49.33
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	47.83	48.29	51.25	51.53	51.68	52.84
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,682	1,678	1,382	1,404	1,391	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,947	11,991	12,272	12,025	12,248	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	102,593	65,806	25,581	16,500	30,948	51,260
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,821	6,840	6,863	7,060	7,009	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,097	2,101	1,715	1,666	1,780	1,771
Percent of capacity.....	#81.9	#82.1	63.5	61.7	65.9	65.6
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	741	725	645	563	666	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	353	348	317	275	326	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning September 22, 1958: Production, 1,793 thous. short tons; operating rate, 66.4 percent. * Monthly index for September 1957. ** Excludes 658,000 and 655,000 insured unemployed reported under temporary programs (TUC) for August 30 and September 6, respectively. # Based on January 1, 1957, annual capacity (133,459,150 tons); not comparable with 1958 rates which are based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1957		1958			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Industrial and commercial failures:						
Failures, total.....number..	1,059	1,145	1,341	1,260	1,253	1,127
Commercial service.....do....	81	91	108	99	99	106
Construction.....do....	153	165	207	161	181	158
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	181	204	242	235	255	206
Retail trade.....do....	570	588	659	640	613	549
Wholesale trade.....do....	74	97	125	125	105	108
Liabilities (current), total.....thous. of dol..	44,299	43,514	56,246	61,445	65,375	50,765
Commercial service.....do....	5,024	2,331	3,812	7,719	4,164	3,126
Construction.....do....	7,629	10,426	10,771	7,390	13,966	8,687
Manufacturing and mining.....do....	14,039	12,847	17,912	18,959	22,673	15,742
Retail trade.....do....	12,715	14,752	18,279	21,692	18,784	14,347
Wholesale trade.....do....	4,892	3,158	5,472	5,685	5,788	8,863
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index:						
All items.....1947-49=100..	120.8	121.0	123.6	123.7	123.9	*123.7
Apparel.....do....	106.5	106.6	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.6
Food.....do....	117.4	117.9	121.6	121.6	121.7	120.7
Dairy products.....do....	110.5	111.5	111.8	111.7	112.4	113.0
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	126.9	121.3	137.4	134.3	131.9	124.9
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	109.5	111.9	116.6	118.3	119.2	117.7
Housing.....do....	125.5	125.7	127.8	127.8	127.7	127.9
Gas and electricity.....do....	112.3	113.3	116.5	116.9	117.0	117.5
Housefurnishings.....do....	104.1	103.9	104.0	104.1	104.0	103.3
Rent.....do....	135.2	135.4	137.5	137.7	137.8	138.1
Medical care.....do....	138.4	138.6	143.7	143.9	144.6	145.0
Personal care.....do....	124.7	124.9	128.5	128.6	128.9	128.9
Reading and recreation.....do....	112.4	112.6	116.6	116.7	116.6	116.7
Transportation.....do....	135.8	135.9	138.7	138.9	140.3	141.0
Private.....do....	125.6	125.6	128.0	128.0	129.3	130.1
Public.....do....	180.2	180.6	186.1	187.7	189.5	189.5
Other goods and services.....do....	126.6	126.7	127.2	127.2	127.2	127.1

* Index based on 1935-39=100 is 206.8.

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ITEM	1957		1958			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
COMMODITY PRICES - Continued						
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....1947-49=100..	84.6	84.5	83.7	83.9	83.9	*84.0
Consumer prices.....do....	82.8	82.6	80.9	80.8	80.7	*80.8
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Highway concrete pavement contract awards: 1/						
Total.....thous. of sq. yd..	8,896	5,292	11,637	11,045	17,842	11,173
Airports.....do....	845	336	3,685	2,475	6,631	1,256
Roads.....do....	4,581	2,497	4,261	5,633	7,475	6,520
Streets and alleys.....do....	3,471	2,459	3,691	2,938	3,737	3,398
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Television advertising:						
Cost of facilities, total.....thous. of dol..	38,760	38,849	47,918	43,769	41,059	.....
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,711	3,774	5,162	4,068	2,979	.....
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	11,749	11,683	12,103	11,772	12,526	.....
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	7,541	7,541	9,633	9,093	9,045	.....
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	5,720	5,523	5,696	4,706	4,378	.....
Smoking materials.....do....	3,899	4,366	4,981	4,808	4,550	.....
Magazine advertising:						
Cost, total.....do....	42,969	45,501	66,070	58,303	39,145	40,625
Apparel and accessories.....do....	884	4,403	5,033	2,859	770	4,165
Automotive, including accessories.....do....	3,888	3,457	5,861	5,201	3,741	3,047
Building materials.....do....	1,417	1,748	3,894	3,171	1,625	1,417
Drugs and toiletries.....do....	5,836	5,560	6,618	7,231	5,820	4,893
Foods, soft drinks, confectionery.....do....	6,594	5,410	6,713	7,939	5,777	5,360
Beer, wine, liquors.....do....	2,623	2,318	3,215	3,444	2,507	2,143
Household equipment and supplies.....do....	1,651	1,146	3,614	2,795	1,622	978
Household furnishings.....do....	1,087	1,412	2,926	1,966	756	1,087
Industrial materials.....do....	4,118	4,319	5,042	4,011	2,686	2,292
Soaps, cleansers, etc.....do....	664	484	1,003	674	521	478
Smoking materials.....do....	1,425	1,551	1,786	2,026	1,610	1,791
FINANCE						
Bank debits, total (344 centers).....mil. of dol..	200,559	190,539	r195,127	r219,476	206,521	185,842
New York City.....do....	74,509	68,409	77,315	95,473	82,214	68,620
6 other centers.....do....	41,711	40,194	38,645	41,228	40,701	37,942
Life insurance written (new paid-for insurance):						
Value, estimated total.....mil. of dol..	5,385	5,063	5,462	5,162	5,196	5,086
Group and wholesale.....do....	1,106	779	999	780	633	869
Industrial.....do....	540	556	595	559	530	548
Ordinary.....do....	3,739	3,728	3,868	3,823	4,033	3,669
Turnover of demand deposits except interbank and U. S. Government, annual rate:						
New York City.....ratio of debits to deposits..	49.5	44.7	51.2	65.7	54.8	46.4
6 other centers.....do....	30.6	28.5	28.2	31.4	p29.9	p27.4
337 other reporting centers.....do....	23.6	22.1	22.0	23.8	p22.9	p21.7
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	45,643	51,726	44,279	47,906	48,148	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	67,140	76,886	76,586	89,871	80,769	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	943	1,240	1,759	1,695	1,602	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	9,171	10,895	8,634	9,354	8,471	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	11,058	9,306	12,185	12,173	12,722	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	8,038	7,416	5,764	r6,548	6,872	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	106,183	109,117	89,542	88,210	99,151	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	93,383	103,324	103,721	108,888	87,472	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	186	165	195	175	153	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	16,692	18,000	19,162	16,092	17,034	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	27,400	24,240	23,904	23,426	24,107	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	2,872	3,580	**3,637	**4,043	**3,497	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	6,621	7,200	**6,874	**6,176	**6,909	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	233	318	246	231	205	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	32,607	37,043	30,249	31,176	28,476	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	38,889	46,520	48,515	47,513	40,988	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	18,057	23,597	23,215	21,049	17,940	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	63,272	72,263	56,785	r57,986	53,294	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	27,858	29,228	28,099	29,677	28,552	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	9,149	10,048	11,056	9,238	8,876	.....
Polyester resins.....do....	7,209	7,336	10,868	10,743	8,962	.....
Polyethylene resins.....do....	55,357	58,349	70,963	68,068	70,035	.....
LEATHER AND PRODUCTS						
Leather production:						
Calf and whole kip.....thous. of skins..	546	818	645	r687	542	.....
Cattle hide and side kip.....thous. of hides and kips..	1,886	2,261	1,942	1,892	1,651	.....
Goat and kid.....thous. of skins..	1,788	1,801	1,704	1,682	1,808	.....
Sheep and lamb.....do....	1,737	2,208	2,206	r2,114	1,908	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for July 1957 and July 1958 are for 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. * Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by--wholesale prices, 44.0; consumer prices, 48.4. ** Effective May 1958, data for "other cellulose plastics" are combined with sheets, etc., and molding and extrusion materials.

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ITEM	1957		1958			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Machine tools (metal-cutting and metal-forming):						
New orders (net), total....mil. of dol..	62.65	52.90	28.05	32.10	r26.55	p28.05
Domestic....do....	56.90	48.15	23.85	24.30	r21.95	p23.00
Shipments, total....do....	81.45	78.30	50.10	45.50	r29.70	p29.45
Domestic....do....	73.10	71.50	41.70	38.90	24.50	p24.60
Estimated backlog....months..	4.0	3.8	2.5	2.5	2.7	p2.8
PAPER AND PRINTING						
Newsprint, Canada (including Newfoundland):						
Production....thous. of short tons..	549.2	560.3	548.0	482.5	508.4	511.0
Shipments from mills....do....	578.8	524.0	561.4	480.6	523.2	491.9
Stocks, at mills, end of month....do....	169.9	206.2	221.8	223.6	208.8	227.9
Newsprint, United States:						
Consumption by publishers....do....	373.5	386.4	438.0	409.2	364.5	387.6
Production....do....	144.4	156.5	149.0	141.8	134.9	148.5
Shipments from mills....do....	143.1	153.7	146.7	138.6	137.8	142.0
Stocks, end of month:						
At mills....do....	13.2	15.9	18.3	21.5	18.6	25.1
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton: 1/						
Consumption....bales..	639,776	r665,532	599,690	595,648	613,511	638,767
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day....thousands..	19,760	r19,744	19,210	18,991	19,230	19,268
Consuming 100 percent cotton....do....	18,072	18,079	17,625	17,443	17,501	17,541
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total..mil. of hr..	9,323	r9,166	8,154	8,303	8,791	8,777
Average per working day....do....	373	r458	408	415	352	439
Consuming 100 percent cotton....do....	8,479	8,368	7,503	7,637	8,048	8,070
Rayon and acetate:						
Production:						
Filament yarn....mil. of lb..	55.7	54.2	49.2	47.3	52.0	53.6
Staple (incl. tow) 2/....do....	32.7	38.0	21.6	22.6	26.5	26.7
Stocks, producers', end of month, total 2/....do....	124.5	122.6	122.7	118.6	117.8	111.5
Filament yarn....do....	69.9	69.6	69.6	67.3	66.0	61.3
Staple (incl. tow) 2/....do....	54.6	53.0	53.1	51.3	51.8	50.2
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total....number..	7,893	8,887	3,588	2,407	2,113	2,151
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	4,832	4,716	2,218	1,179	1,080	1,276
Domestic....do....	4,685	4,587	2,164	1,179	1,080	1,276
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	3,061	4,171	1,370	1,228	1,033	875
New orders, total....do....	1,058	2,352	r1,370	317	811	1,873
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	782	582	r1,319	187	811	871
Domestic....do....	782	568	r1,319	187	376	771
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	276	1,770	51	130	0	1,002
Unfilled orders, end of month....do....	86,489	80,477	30,406	27,777	26,449	26,166
Equipment manufacturers, total....do....	39,864	36,203	6,975	5,444	5,149	4,739
Domestic....do....	38,604	34,984	6,955	5,424	4,694	4,184
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic....do....	46,625	44,274	23,431	22,333	21,300	21,427

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for July 1957 and July 1958 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks. 2/ Data beginning May 1958 exclude figures for acetate staple plus tow; see note at the bottom of p. S-38 of the September 1958 SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS.

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WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT
SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS